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TABAGO:
OR, A
GEOGRAPHICAL
DESCRIPTION,
NATURAL and CIVIL
HISTORY,

TOGETHER WITH

A full Representation of the PRODUCE, and
other Advantages arising from the FERTI-
LITY, excellent HARBOURS, and happy
Situation of that famous Island.

In which is Comprehended

Whatever is to be met with in *Spanish, Dutch, French*
or *English* Writers relating thereto, from its
Discovery to the present Time, fully exploding
the Chimera of a *French* Title, and clearly
shewing the Sovereignty thereof ever was, and
now is in the Crown of *Great-Britain*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for W. REEVES, at *Shakespear's Head*,
near *Serjeants-Inn* in *Fleet-street*, and sold by
the Bookfellers of *London* and *Westminster*.

[Price One Shilling and Six-Pence.]

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TABAGO, &c.

THE vast Incertainty of human Affairs, tho' generally known, and universally confessed, is, notwithstanding the great source of Surprize; and tho' Philosophers and Politicians agree in laying it down as a Rule, that we should wonder at nothing, yet we find them very often breaking through that Rule themselves, and wondering almost at every thing they see. It is not long ago, that we were entertained with the prospect, at least, of a solid and lasting Peace; now again, on a sudden, the Clouds begin to darken almost every Quarter of the Horizon; and, exclusive of the Tempests so natural to the North, we are put in fear of a Hurricane in the West, and all this about

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a poor

a poor, little, abandoned Island that lies, few people can tell where, and belongs to, hardly any body can tell who. I would not be understood to speak this ironically, for in Truth it is too serious a Matter to be so treated; but I speak it with Sorrow, that notwithstanding our high Pretences to Knowledge and Penetration in the present Age, we find our selves every day at a Loss upon Subjects that are held to be trivial, till Experience, which very seldom instructs wise Men, convinces us of their Importance.

One would have imagined, that upon the first Report of the settling of the Island of TABAGO, with the additional Circumstance of its being like to create a Disturbance in the *West Indies*, an inquisitive Person might have found it a very easy Matter to have satisfied his Curiosity about it, even in its utmost Extent; and yet there is nothing more certain, than that this is a Point of such Difficulty, that, after having spent some Months in making as diligent Search as was in my Power, I am very far from being able to give the Reader any Assurance, that what I have to communicate will effect this; but I can, with great Veracity, affirm,

firm, that if I could any where have met with one half of what I am able to lay before him, it would have so far satisfied me, that I should have hardly travelled any farther. But, being once in the Road of enquiry, and finding nothing in common Books of Geography that could serve to form any tolerable Opinion, I was induced to go on, and by degrees have collected a considerable Quantity of Materials, which having ranged in the easiest and most natural Method I could devise, I freely offer to the Judgment of the Publick, and shall esteem myself happy, if they shall be thought to afford any tolerable Light into so obscure and intricate a Subject; and still more happy, if they shall prompt any other Person, better qualified, to give a more clear and distinct Account of this Matter, which is certainly of very great Consequence to several potent Nations, and deserves therefore to be as thoroughly understood as possible.

There is nothing in Disquisitions of this Kind, that is so apt to mislead and defeat the very Intention of them, as either Prejudice or Partiality; for when a Man sets out with a Resolution to prove, that a thing either is not so, or that it is

so, he will be sure to deceive himself, and if he has any tolerable Share of Parts and Abilities, he will have a very fair Chance for perplexing and confounding his Readers; and therefore, as I am no way conscious of having a Design to espouse any other Cause, than that of Truth, Reason, and Justice, so all the Favour I have to desire is, that I may be read with the same candid Disposition, and that every competent Judge will be pleased to suspend his Censure of this small Treatise, till he has perused, weighed, and considered the whole, and then I shall be under no Apprehension as to his Decision, for I shall then either merit his Approbation, which will give me pleasure, or receive his Sentence without Reluctance, as knowing that it proceeds from an unbiaſſed Regard to Justice, the only Point for which I contend.

It would be preposterous to detain the Reader with a long Introduction from a Work that is in itself but very short. What I have said, I held to be so necessary as not to be omitted; and having said all that I held to be necessary, either with Regard to the Undertaking itself, or to the Light in which I desire my Reader should consider it, I shall, without farther Ceremony,

Ceremony, proceed to the Matter in hand, and endeavour to be as succinct as is consistent with the Plainness and Perspicuity that is requisite to give a real Value to an Attempt of this Kind. An Attempt which I should never have had the Vanity to make, if there had been any Appearance of the World's receiving it in a better manner from some more able Hand.

Between the East Point of the Island of *Porto Rico* and the Continent of South *America*, there is a Kind of Curve Line, or, as it were, a large Bow of Islands, which the *French* call *Antilles*; this, as they are not able to give us any tolerable Etymology of the Word, I conceive to be a Corruption of the *Spanish* Term *Antilas*, which has a very distinct and proper Meaning, tho' not easily expressed in *English*, for it signifies, the hither, forward, or projecting Islands, that is to say, those that lie before the four great Islands, viz. *Hispaniola*, *Cuba*, *Jamaica*, and *Porto Rico*; for having given to these, by way of Eminence, the Title of *Ilas*, or the Islands, they call this Arch of lesser Islands *Antilas*, i. e. the Barrier before the Islands. Most of our *English* Writers call them, properly enough, the

Caribbee Islands, from their original Inhabitants, or at least the Nation inhabiting them at the Time they first became acquainted with these Seas and Islands.

If we consider this Arch of Islands as Beginning from *Porto Rico*, then *Tabago* is the last of the *Antilles*; but if we consider them from the South Continent of *America*, it is the first of them; in short, it is the South Extremity of the Bow, that which is nearest to the *Spanish* Settlements on the Main, and the farthest from most of our own. The Island of *Tabago* lies in the Latitude of eleven Degrees six Minutes North; as to its Form it is very irregular, but according to the best and most accurate Computation that has been hitherto made, it is about ninety of our Miles in Circumference, being full thirty Miles long, in some Places twelve, but in others not above five or six broad. The best Description, that is any where to be met with of this Island, is that of Mr. *de Rochefort*, who very carefully examined it, when in a State of Nature and after it began to be planted, who dedicated his Book to the *Dutch* Governor of it, and from whose Description, all, who have written with any tolerable Degree of Accuracy on the Subject, have bor-

borrowed most of what they say. From thence therefore we shall give the Reader an Account of what this Island really is in itself, whence it will be easy to judge of the Improvements it may receive from Cultivation.

The Island of *Tabago* is not over-run with Mountains hideous and inaccessible, deformed by impassable Morasses, or overgrown by thick impenetrable Woods, as some other of the *Antilles* were, and those are of which the *Caribbees* still remain possessed; but if in some Places the Ground rises with an easy and agreeable Ascent, it sinks elsewhere into shady and pleasant Valleys, or opens into fair and spacious Plains, crowned with Cedars, Palms, Acajous, Akoumas, and many other excellent Trees of the largest Size, which form every where beautiful Perspectives, as if they were planted to afford Man the Pleasure of their Shade, and that too without obstructing his Sport, if inclined to hunt through them.

As to the Qualities of its Soil, it is in some Places light and sandy, in others, mixt with Gravel and little Flints, elsewhere very fat and black; and those who have visited its whole Extent, as well the Summits of its Hills as the Valleys,

and Plains, report, that there is not any Part of it incapable of Improvement; tho' it must be owned, that its Trees, of which it always wears a rich Garland, ought to be reputed its most precious Ornament. Some are loaded with excellent Fruits, proper either to refresh, or convenient to sustain the Life of Man; others again, serving not only to decorate the Mountain's Brow, or to ravish the Beholder's Sight, but also to employ the Carpenters, Turners, Dyers, and even the Physicians Skill; the Solidity, sweet Scent, beautiful Colours, and hidden Vertues of their Woods, Fruits, and Leaves, rendering all of them excellent for some or other of these Uses.

Besides those beautiful Trees, that are also common to most of the Islands in its Neighbourhood, there are many peculiar to this, and particularly some that bear a Fruit no way different, in its outward Form, from the Nutmegs that come to us out of the *East Indies*, and covered like them with Mace, that is, with a thin Leaf or Aromatic Tegument between the Nut and the thick Rind, which preserves and envelopes the Fruit. In other Respects, these Sort of Nutmegs have a different Taste from those of the *Indies*, and their
Smell

Smell is so faint, that it is quickly lost. It is however very possible, that if Care was taken by pruning these Trees, to remove the dead and superfluous Wood with which they are overloaded, and which hinders them from receiving plentifully the Rays of the Sun, they might become more perfect, their Fruit of a more agreeable Flavour, and their Odour more fragrant and lasting.

There grow also in this Island other Trees, to which the *Dutch* Planters have given Names (which our Author has translated into *French*) such as *Millepeids*, *Fromagiers*, *Bois de Canelle*, and *Copal*, which are either very rare, or entirely unknown in the other Islands; the first of these he describes thus. The *Millepeids*, *i. e.* the thousand Feet, is so called because it is sustained by an almost infinite Number of large Roots, which are formed out of its own Branches as soon as they grow low enough to touch the Ground, by which its Trunk becomes of a most enormous Size. The Leaves are somewhat bigger than those of a Laurel. The Fruit of this Tree is of the Size of a Fig, and the Parroquets delight in it extremely. This Fruit is preceded by a very beautiful white Flower, under which
there

there is commonly found a yellow, glutinous, or gummy Matter, which infallibly cures Tetters, or Spots, either upon the Face or Hands. It is also in the hollow Branches of this Tree, that the Bees on this Island make their Honey and Wax.

The *Bois de Canelle* is no other than the Sassafras Tree, but at the same Time one of the most lovely and excellent that adorns the Woods of the new World. It grows very strait, and the Stem of it frequently rises to twenty-five or thirty Feet in Height before it divides itself into Branches. The Leaves, in Colour and Smell, resemble those of the Laurel. The Wood is a pale red, of a sweet Smell, solid, close, and very fit for all Kind of Cabinet Work, but the Planters use it commonly in building their Houses. Its Branches are so thick, and so well covered, that nothing will grow under them, but a short thick Grass, which composes, in all Seasons, a most beautiful verdant Carpet, for the Ease of those who come to seek the Refreshment of the cool Air, under the Shade of this delicious Tree, which recreates at once both the Sight and Smell, by the perpetual Lustre

of

of its Leaves, and the odoriferous Scent which they exhale.

These Trees bear a kind of Grain somewhat like a Pepper-Corn, and tho' they are pretty strong, yet they are very agreeable to the Parroquets, that commonly utter their noisy Songs from these Trees in which they lie conveniently hid, the Colour of their Feathers differing very little from that of the Leaves. The Aromatick Bark of this Tree is of great Use in Physick, being much esteemed for the Cure of Cholicks, Defluxions, Rheumatick Pains, and other such like Distempers. That agreeable Sweetness which it retains when dried in the Shade, makes it useful in Sauce, to which it gives a pleasant Flavour, not unlike that of Cinnamon, whence it is called *Bois de Canelle*.

The *Copal* is a very fine lofty Tree, the Trunk, or even the thick Branches of which being pierced, yeild a Balm of an exceeding pleasant Smell, which heals fresh Wounds speedily, and either resolves or brings to suppuration almost any Kind of Tumour. The Bark of this Tree is of a pale red, and it is very remarkable that it differs from all the Trees in the Island, except the *Cassier*, in this, that

that in the very hot Weather it loses all its Leaves, whereas those preserve a constant Verdure.

The *Fromagier*, i. e. the Cheese-Tree, is of a far larger Size, and of quite another Figure in this Island than the rest of the *Antilles*, where it is likewise found. It is equally valuable for the pleasant Shade it affords, and the wonderful Fruit it produces. The latter, which is of the Size of a Hen's Egg, and in Length about half a Foot, has a hard woody Coat, which, when it is ripe, the Heat of the Sun bursts, and being then blown down by the Wind, there is found in the Inside a very fine Cotton or Down, soft and smooth as Silk, and fit for abundance of fine Works. This Tree undoubtedly derives its Name from the Nature of its Wood, covered with a Bark of a greyish Colour, which is so soft that it may be cut as easily as Cheese.

Those who have had the Curiosity to examine the Trees of loftier Growth, have found a considerable Number of such as produce the Cacao, and are satisfied that the Chocolate made from this Fruit, is to the full as Good as any that comes from the *Spanish Coast*. The *Eustick*, which is a valuable Dye, is likewise

wise common in this Island, besides an Infinity of others; some producing that beautiful Vermilion which the *Indians* call the *Roucou*, and some which yield Rosins or Gums, odoriferous or medicinal, grow in such Abundance as might turn to great Profit. As for Oranges, sweet and sour Citrons, various Kinds of Figs, and in a Word, Pomgranates, and every Kind of Fruit found in the rest of the *Antilles*, they all grow plentifully and in full Perfection here.

Whatever Grain, Roots, &c. contribute to the ordinary Nourishment of the Inhabitants of hot Countries grow here in large Quantities, and with little Trouble, such as Rice, the largest Kind of Millet, Peas and Beans, the Manioc, of which they make Bread almost all over *America*; Melons, and every Kind of Pot-Herbs, and Roots exquisite in their Kind, and in Flavour as well as Beauty. The Potatoe and Ananas particularly succeed wonderfully, and Experience has shewn, that the Soil agrees as well as can be desired with almost every Sort of Seed that has been tried, most lavishly repaying the Planter's Care, and whatever Pains he is pleased to bestow in its Cultivation.

In

In this single Island are found all the Species of four-footed Beasts, tho' only one or two Sorts are to be met with in any of the rest of the *Antilles*. Both Sorts of wild Hogs, different from ours in *Europe*, and peculiar to *America*, in that they have their Ears short, their Navel on their Backs, and their Grunting more disagreeable, are common here; so are the *Tatous* or *Armadillos*, so called from their being defended by a Coat of Mail composed of very beautiful and shining Scales. This Creature has a Head and Snout like a Hog, with which it routs in the Earth, five short Nails upon each Foot, with which it tears up the Soil to come at the Roots, which it feeds upon in the Night; the Flesh is equally pleasant and wholesome. In Size they are somewhat less than a Fox. When these Creatures either sleep, (as they commonly do all Day long) or are pursued, they roll themselves up like a Hedge-Hog, and are then impenetrable and free from Danger, since neither the Teeth of Beasts, nor the Weapons of Men can touch them; and if when thus rolled up they are thrown down a Precipice, they suffer nothing by the Fall. The *Agouty* is of a deep brown Colour inclining

clining to Black, its Coat rough, and a small Tail without Hair, with two Teeth in the upper and as many in the lower Jaw; when this Creature feeds it rests upon its hind Feet, and holds its Food in its Claws like a Squirrel. It is of the Size of a Rabbit, but the Ears are round and short, and the Teeth sharp as a Razor; the Flesh is as good as that of a Rabbit. Musk-Rats are very common here, they are of the Size of the largest Kind of Rats, and burrow in the Ground, where their Holes are easily found by the strong Scent. Foxes and wild Cats are also to be met with, and their Skins are remarkably bright and beautiful.

The Birds peculiar to *Tabago* are few or none, if we except a Kind of Pheasants, which are called, or rather call themselves, *Kaquereka*, pronouncing the four Notes that compose this Word very distinctly, but with a harsh and screaming Sound, very disagreeable to Ears that are unaccustomed to it; the best of it is, that they are only noisy about Day-break, and thereby afford a fair Opportunity of shooting them, when their Flesh, which is very delicate, fully repays the Taste for any Injury done to the Hearing. As for Wood-Pigeons, Turtle-Doves, Parroquets,

Parroquets, Black-Birds and Thrushes, there are vast Flights of them every where.

The Ocean which surrounds, and the Rivers that water this Island are in a Manner covered with Herons, Divers, Ducks, Mallards, and other Water-Fowl, that feed upon little Fish and Insects in the Water. Besides, the Vicinity of the Continent furnishes *Tabago* with a vast Variety of different Kinds of Birds that never reach the more distant Islands, some all in a Livery, others distinguished by an infinite Variety of beautiful Colours, that at once charm the Sight, and raise in the Mind grateful Ideas of the Wisdom and Power of their Creator.

The Sea that washes this Island on every Side abounds with all Sorts of excellent Fish. The largest of the Tortoise Kind, during the still Silence of the Night, rise by Hundreds out of the Bosom of the Ocean, where they have sported all the Day, to bury their Eggs in the moist Sand upon the Beach. Hither also resort Multitudes of that lesser Kind of Tortoises, remarkable for the Beauty of their Shells, of which so many curious Utensils are made, and which from thence becomes a Commodity of great

great Price. These indeed are not Advantages peculiar only to *Tabago*, but such as it enjoys in Conjunction with all the neighbouring Islands; but they are advantages nevertheless tho' enjoy'd in common, and contribute to raise the Worth and Value of this Island to which they belong; and from which, considering the peculiar Benefits it has received from the indulgent Hand of Nature, it might be thought excluded, if together with those separate Advantages these had not been likewise enumerated. Let us now proceed to those, without which the rest would be of small Advantage to Mankind, and to a still more exalted Privilege bestowed by Providence upon this Country than any that has been hitherto mentioned. A Privilege, which if it were not incontestably notorious, would be absolutely incredible.

On the West and North Coasts of this Island there are Havens, Bays, and Roads, equally safe and commodious for Ships of any Burthen; so that all Parts of the Island can with Facility and Convenience communicate with some or other of these Receptacles for Ships, upon which Commerce, the Portion Dame *Nature* gives to every fruitful Island, and which some that

are barren procure from Art, must principally depend; but the high Prerogative of *Tabago*, and which distinguishes it in a superlative Degree from all the *Antilles*, is its being entirely free from Hurricanes, to which more or less all the rest are exposed. It might afford Matter for a curious Dissertation, should one attempt to explain the natural Causes of a Privilege so extraordinary; but as in this we might run great Hazards of being mistaken, and, as after all we could assign secondary Causes only, it may be as well to rest upon the Testimony of constant Experience, and to resolve the rest into the Will and Wisdom of the supreme Creator, whence it undoubtedly proceeds.

In common with some other of the *Antilles*, it enjoys another very considerable Advantage, which is its Freedom from venomous Beasts of every Kind. At first Sight it might seem a Contradiction to this, to acknowledge that in some of the Woods there are found most monstrous Serpents, some not less than twelve or fifteen Foot in Length, but by Experience these are found to be very timorous, and in other Respects as harmless as Snakes. The Negroes feed
upon

upon them very freely, and esteem their Flesh as savoury and wholesome as that of any Fish whatever. They likewise preserve the Skins of these enormous Reptiles with the utmost Care, on Account of the singular Beauty of their Scales, which in Point of Lustre, Variety, and elegant Disposition of their Colours, are incomparably more pleasing to the Eye than the richest Tapestry.

We may add to all this, that no Island in *America* can boast, in Proportion to its Extent, a greater Number of living Springs or chrystal Rivulets. The Natives or *Indian* Inhabitants, had distinguished eighteen, but it is since perceived that their Computation was somewhat short, and that there are really more Rivers in *Tabago*; most of these in a pleasant and serpentine Course glide through the Fields, equally enriched by their Moisture and enlivened by their Lustre; but notwithstanding this, there are scarce any but what flows with Force sufficient to make its Passage to the Sea, and some there are so rapid in their Course, as to be very fit for assisting the Industry and alleviating the Labour of Man, by the Application of their Streams either to Sugar or to Saw-Mills. It having

been before observed that there are several spacious Plains on this Island, the Reader will easily conceive, that as these are covered with a rich and verdent Tapisstry of Grass, there cannot be any Place more proper for feeding and fattening of Cattle, which in itself is an Improvement that would serve sufficiently to enrich the Country that is capable of it in the *West-Indies*. But that great Diversity of Soil before taken Notice of, renders *Tabago* very susceptible of various other Advantages; and indeed whoever considers what Circumstances are necessary to the raising those Commodities which may be regarded as the great Treasures of *America*, such as Tobacco, Sugar, Indigo, rich Woods, Drugs, and Dying Stuff, will allow that there are very few Places to be found so capable of many, if not all these, as the Island of *Tabago*; which, nevertheless, lying as it does at a considerable Distance from the most remarkable of the *European* Settlements, almost as little Notice has been taken of it, as if it had not been known to us by Name as early as any other of the *Antilles*.

It must however be allowed, that one Flaw has been found in this Gem, or at least one Defect suggested, to abate the Value

Value of the many Blessings of which *Tabago* indisputably stands possessed, and that undoubtedly no small one. In short, it is said that the Air is unwholesome, and that when the *Dutch* first settled there, they were exposed to many grievous and mortal Diseases. But supposing this to be true, and indeed some Truth there certainly is in it, yet the very same Objection might be with equal Reason made, against any of the rest of the *Antilles*, for they were all under the same Circumstances at their first settling; but by Degrees, as the Earth is opened, the Surface cleared, the Trees unloaded of superfluous Wood, and Fires employed on necessary Occasions, there is no doubt that even this Obstacle, dreadful as it seems, might be easily got over, and in fact within the Compass of a few Years the *Dutch* did get over it. Besides, it's very remarkable, that tho' *Tabago* lies nearer the Line than any of the *Antilles*, yet the Air is very temperate and agreeable, constantly refreshed with gentle and pleasant Gales; seldom, indeed hardly ever oppressed by that excessive Sultriness to which some Climates are exposed, and as has been already observed, entirely free from those furious Gulls

of destroying Winds that vex the adjacent Isles, and spread equal Terror and Confusion over the Face of Land and Sea. Such is the Description of *Tabago*, as I find it in this Author, who wrote at a Time when it was best known, and most Part of whose Account will be hereafter verified from Matters of Fact.

We are now to enquire when and how this Island came to the Knowledge of the *Europeans*, who were its original or most ancient Inhabitants, how and in what Manner it has changed its Masters, and what the Situation of it is at this Day; all which Circumstances are necessary to be very thoroughly known, before we can proceed to form any tolerable Notion of the great Point at present in debate, which is to whom this Island ought of Right to appertain. In travelling this Road we shall be obliged to change our Guides often, for there are very few that carry us above a Stage or two at the most, nor is it very safe for us to follow them even when they make Overtures of carrying us farther, because those who conduct us safely through the Times with which they are well acquainted, are very seldom able to give us any certain Lights in reference either to earlier or later Transactions, which

which therefore it is our Business to learn, from other Hands; a Caution in which if the Reader should distrust my Judgment, he will be speedily and fully convinced by his own Experience, if he takes ever so little a Part of the Pains that I have done.

We have an *English* Translation of *Anthony Herrera's* History of the *West-Indies*, an Author of great Credit and Authority; yet little or nothing can be found to our Purpose therein. But there is prefixed to the *Spanish* Original a very clear and accurate Description of *America*, which we have just Reason to regret has not hitherto appeared in the *English* Tongue. It appears from the seventh Chapter of this Description, that the Island of *Tabago* was discovered by the Admiral Don *Christopher Columbus* in the Year 1498, but as he was intent upon the finding out the Continent of *America*, which in his former Voyages he had never seen, it does not appear that he troubled himself any farther about the little Islands that he met with in his Passage, than to bestow Names upon them; nor indeed is it evident that the *Spaniards*, who had so many and so great Countries to discover and conquer, made any Attempt to

add this to their Dominions by taking it actually into their Possession; so that unless barely bestowing a Name upon it can be supposed to give them any Right, it will not be easy to assign any Grounds whatever for their setting up a Title to the Island of *Tabago*.

At the Time this Island was first seen and named by the *Europeans*, it was inhabited by the *Caribbees*, who, as themselves relate, had several considerable Villages therein, and considered it as one of the pleasantest, most fruitful, and valuable of their Possessions. But about sixty Years after the *Spaniards* had visited these Parts, they were forced to abandon it in consequence of their Wars with the *Arouagues*, their irreconcilable Enemies on the Continent, who from thence, and from the Island of *Trinity* which was also in their Possession, harassed them continually, and from time to time cut off such Numbers, that they thought it the most adviseable Thing they could do to get farther out of their Reach; and upon this Principle it was that they retired from *Tabago* to some of the adjacent Islands. They continued however to frequent their old Settlement occasionally, and even to come there

there in great Numbers, more especially at the Times of their annual Expeditions against their Enemies, whom they pursue with the same unrelenting Animosity that is shewn in return by the *Aroïagues*. This in few Words is the best Account that can be given how this Island came to be first abandoned; yet so tenacious all Nations are of what they take to be their Rights, that long after this, as we shall have Occasion to relate, these Savages, as the *Europeans* are pleased to stile them, resented an Attempt to settle this Island, as an Invasion on their Territory, and despoiling them of their Property.

The *English* frequently visited *Tabago* while they had in view the settling themselves in the Country of *Guiana*, which is directly over against it upon the Main; it served them likewise for a kind of Place of Arms when they made Attempts upon the Island of *Trinity*, wherein the *Spaniards* had once a flourishing Colony, to destroy which, Sir *Robert Dudley*, Son to the great Earl of *Leicester*, fitted out a Squadron at his own Expence, and tho' he performed many gallant Things in the Expedition, yet not being so fortunate in it as he expected, and being
ill-

ill-treated at his Return, in the latter End of *Queen Elizabeth's* Reign, he grew tired of these Kind of Adventures, to which, if I mistake not, he was principally induced by his Intimacy with Captain *Thomas Cavendish*, who sailed round the Globe, and whose Sister was his first Wife. It was from these Expeditions in the latter End of the sixteenth Century, and long before any other *European* Nation except the *Spaniards* visited these Parts, that our Nation derives its original Title to *Tabago*, and that this has been so constantly maintained as to beget a general Opinion that this Island belonged to us, shall in its proper Place be as clearly shewn as any thing of this Kind can be.

The *French* Historians are very desirous of propagating an Opinion, that our Establishment in the *Antilles* and theirs is of the same Date, which however is only true of the Island of *St. Christophers*, of which indeed the *English* and *French* took Possession on the same Day; but as to *Barbadoes*, the very next of the *Antilles* to *Tabago*, and scarce distant from thence twenty Leagues, we were settled there long before. The publick Records of that Colony were unfortunately burnt in the Year 1668, which has put it out

of our Power to produce any of the authentic Acts that might put our Title to this adjacent Island beyond all Contradiction. Yet from an Act of Assembly passed in *Barbadoes* the very Year that Fire happened, which confirms whatever was done by any Governor, President, or Council in the Reigns of King *James* the first, and King *Charles* the first, it is incontestably evident that we were well settled and Masters here, before the Death of the first-mentioned Prince, that is before the Year 1625 ; which is earlier than any of the *French* Pretensions, even as they are set forth by their own Writers. It is however very likely that while our Planters were busy in the Establishment of *Barbadoes*, they made only occasional Visits to the Island of *Tabago* for the Convenience of cutting Timber, for a large Supply of the most excellent Sorts of which this Island was ever famous ; we might probably also keep a few People resident there, but that we did not fully settle it, seems to have been owing to our Apprehensions of the *Spaniards*, who being possessed all along of the great Island of *Trinity*, lying close by *Tabago*, might from thence have infested and destroyed an Infant Settlement with great Ease, as they

they actually drove both us and the *French* out of *St. Christophers*, for no Reason in the World but that they disliked our Neighbourhood.

At length, which is a convincing Argument of the prior Right of the Crown of *Great-Britain*, his Majesty King *Charles* the first was graciously pleased to grant this Island, together with that of *Berbuda* and the Island of *St. Bernard*, to *William* Earl of *Pembroke*, in the Year 1628; but the Disturbances that afterwards arose in the Government, and the Interest which that noble Peer had in other Colonies (for he was a great Patron of our early Settlements) hindered him from reaping the Benefit of this Grant; and at the same time hindered any other *Englishman* from undertaking to settle *Tabago*. Yet notwithstanding these untoward Accidents, which have been the Cause that no Profits have arisen either to private Persons or to the Publick from this our Title, yet that hinders not the Grant before-mentioned from remaining a proper Proof of it; because whoever considers its Situation, and how much it must have been always in the Power of the *English*, settled upon *Barbadoes* on one Side, and at *Surinam* upon the Continent

no Force was in any State of Defence

on the other, to send some Families thither occasionally to supply them with the native Commodities of the Island, must be convinced, our Monarch had as good a right to make a Grant of it as any of the *European* Powers ever had to any of the Islands bestowed by them on their Subjects.

But about the time of the breaking out of our Civil Wars, which interrupted all Schemes of Improvement, the *Dutch* from *Brazil* having taken a View of this Island, made so favourable a Report of it upon their Return into their own Country, that a Company of Traders at *Fusling* resolved to undertake the settling of it, and to bestow upon it the Name of *New Walcheren*, which is that of their own Island; accordingly they fitted out a Ship and a Sloop laden with all things necessary for the use of such as undertake a new Colony, and with them sent over about two hundred Souls. They arrived safely in *Tabago*, and in a short time cleared a proper place for a Settlement; and as they had plenty of Materials, they resolved to begin with building a Fort, of which they laid the Foundation with great Labour and Circumspection. But before their Fortress was in any State of Defence, the

the *Caribbeans*, who could not endure that this new Nation with whom they had no Commerce, should without Ceremony come and take Possession of what they still took to be their Country, which was a piece of Injustice the *English* and the *French* had both carefully avoided, by making direct Purchases of their Plantations, formed a Design of cutting them off. The *Dutch*, wary, and well armed, were under no great Apprehensions from these naked Enemies; but the *Indians* who knew their own Strength very well had Recourse to the *Spaniards* in *Trinity* Island, and having engaged them to make a Descent and to attack the Fort, they made a shift to take abundance of the *Dutch* Prisoners as they were flying to their Ships. Those who stood upon their Defence behaved very gallantly, and were all cut to pieces; such as fled first, returned home with this sad News. And this was the Beginning and End of the first *Dutch* Settlement on the Island of *Tabago*.

About ten Years after this, *James* Duke of *Courland*, the Godson of our King *James* the first, a Prince of great Prudence and Abilities, and who was particularly inclined to promote the Commerce and Navigation of his Subjects

sent a Ship or two into the *American Seas*, in search of some uninhabited Island where a Settlement might be made; and his Agents finding the Island of *Tabago* fruitful in itself, finely situated, and very capable of Improvement, fixed themselves there; with which the Duke was so well pleased, that he sent them over a Reinforcement of Men, and what other Supplies were necessary, so that at his Expence they built a pretty good Town, and erected a strong Fort, to which they gave their Sovereign's Name; and without question, this *James's Fort* built by the *Courlanders* was the first Fortification finished by any *European Power* whatsoever in this Country; and there is very little Reason to doubt, if that Prince had not fallen under such Misfortunes as disabled him from prosecuting his Design, he would certainly have made a thorough Settlement here for the Benefit of his Subjects. But it so fell out, that two rich and potent *Dutch Merchants* and Magistrates of the Province of *Zealand*, Messieurs *Adrian* and *Cornelius Lampfins*, had formed a Scheme of resettling *Tabago*, and accordingly fitted out, A. D. 1654, some Ships for that purpose; but upon finding the *Courlanders* already fixed, and

and fortified there, and consequently in a Condition to defend themselves, they knew not well how to execute their Commission. After some pretty warm Expostulations, it was agreed by both Parties, that as the Island was large enough, the *Dutch* should settle at one Corner; which they accordingly did, by the Permission and under the Protection of the Duke of *Courland*, to whom, in consideration of this License, they were to pay an annual Acknowledgment. Thus *Tabago* that was lately desert, was in a fair way of being peopled by two Nations.

It is necessary to inform the Reader, that at this Juncture there was a War in the North of *Europe*, between the Kings of *Sweden* and *Poland*; to the former the Duke of *Courland* was related, and he held his Dominions from the latter, who very generously proposed that he should enjoy a Neutrality. The King of *Sweden* likewise consented to this; but in the Summer of the Year 1658, without the least previous Notice, as well as without the smallest Provocation, he sent General *Douglas* with a Body of Troops into *Courland*, who not only plundered the Country, but seized the Persons of the Duke

Duke and Dutchess, tho' she had lain-in but a Week, and carried them away Prisoners to *Riga*. This totally disconcerted all that poor Prince's Schemes, and put it out of his Power to execute in their entire Extent the Projects he had formed, and which otherwise he was in a very good Condition of bringing to Perfection.

As soon as the News of this unfortunate Accident reached the Ears of the *Dutch* who were settled in *Tabago*, they resolved to take advantage of it, and to make themselves Masters of the whole Island, with which View they suddenly invested Fort *James*; and tho' they were not in a Condition to besiege it immediately, yet upon their threatening to starve the Garrison, and sending them word that the Duke their Sovereign was a Prisoner and in no Condition to relieve them, the Garrison mutinied, and obliged the Governor to deliver it up; by which Expedient the *Dutch* became sole Masters of *Tabago*, and of a very good Fort into the Bargain which they never built. It is true they made a very exact Inventory of every thing, and promised to restore all when the Duke was set at Liberty; but tho' the latter happened some Years after, yet as we shall see in the Sequel, this

Condition was never performed, as in Truth there was but little Probability it ever should.

The new Colony of *Tabago* became now a Point of great Concern, for the *Lampfins* found an unexpected Disposition in the Minds of the People to settle there, chiefly by the unusual Ease with which Plantations were brought into Order, and rendered good Estates to those who resided upon the Island. But the Point was now to find a good Title, for it is very evident, that according to the Law of Nations, and the Law of *Holland*, these two great Brothers, exclusive of their own Interest in the Government and immense Wealth, had but a very sandy Foundation. When they first settled in *Tabago*, it was under the Protection of the Duke of *Courland*, as I have related on the Authority of one of that Prince's Ministers, sent over to solicit Satisfaction ; and I am the rather inclined to believe the Truth of it, because in *Rockfort's History of the Settlement of Tabago*, there is not a Word of the *Courlanders* any more than if there had been no such People in the World, or as if they had never had any thing to do with *Tabago* ; whence it is very probable that

that he was not able to give a different Account of this Matter, from that which the Reader has already received, for otherwise he was too intelligent and too judicious an Author to omit it. Another Circumstance that fortifies greatly this Opinion is this, the Island of *Tabago* lay within the Compass of the *Dutch West-India* Company's Charter, and even the *States-General* could not make a valid Grant, supposing them to have had a Title to this Island, without the Consent of that Company. But in the Manner this Settlement was originally made, there was no Occasion for any of these Formalities, since notwithstanding the *Zealanders* could not possess the Island in Property without them, yet they might very well settle there, and acquire what they could as Vassals to the Duke of *Courland*, with whose Discoveries and Acquisitions in *America* the *States* had nothing to do.

How well satisfied soever the *Lampskins* might be with their original Title, while their Colony had a Part only; yet now they were become Masters of the whole, and in the Space of six or seven Years had improved this Country to such a Degree, as to receive large Returns from

it, they were desirous of securing their Interest better; and therefore Mr. *Cornelius Lampsin*, Burgo-Master of *Flushing*, and perpetual Deputy to the *States-General* from the Province of *Zealand*, having a good Interest at the Court of *France*, arising from the great Services he had done to that Crown, procured from *Lewis XIV.* Letters Patents, dated at *St. Germain en l'Aye*, in the Month of *August* 1662, creating him Baron of the Island of *Ta-bago*, and Chevalier of the *Acolade*, with all the Privileges of a Baron of *France*, and an Addition to the Arms he had devised for that Island, of a *Eschutcheon* of Pretence charged with Flower de Lucces without number, which Letters Patent were verified in Parliament *May* 25 1663, but he did not long outlive the obtaining this new Dignity; which as a late *Dutch* Writer very pertinently observes, could not derive any sort of Strength to the Title, by which he held that Island, as will also be made more manifest from the Sequel.

It cannot be imagined, that while the *Dutch* were going on triumphantly in their Plantation of this Island, the Duke of *Courland* should be absolutely passive, and the Truth is that he was very far from being so; for on the contrary, he ap-

applied himself to the *States*, by his Ministers, setting forth all the Facts before mentioned, and his repeated Applications to the *Lampfins* for the Performance of their Promise in evacuating his Fort. But finding every thing of this kind vain, and beginning to suspect the Validity of his own Title, he resolved to obtain a better, by accepting a Grant from the Crown of *Great-Britain*; and after a Negotiation of some Months, an Agreement was concluded in the following Terms :

“ BE IT KNOWN unto all and singular Person and Persons, to whom these Presents shall come, that on the 17th of the Month of *November* in the Year of our Lord 1664, by a double Writing of the same Tenor and Language, it was agreed between the most serene and most potent Prince *Charles II.* by the Grace of God, King of *Great-Britain, France, and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. of the one Part, and the most illustrious Prince *James*, Duke in *Livonia of Courland and Semigallia*, on the other Part, that the said Lord the King by these Presents, doth give and grant to the said Lord the Duke of *Courland*, his Heirs and Successors, full Liberty of Trade and Commerce

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“ for

“ for such Ships as do properly belong to him
 “ or them, but not such Ships as belong to
 “ any of his Subjects in any Rivers or Havens
 “ within the Dominions of his Majesty
 “ on the Coast of *Africa*, which is called
 “ by the Name of *Guinea*, as also in any
 “ Merchandize not exceeding the Value
 “ of twelve thousand Pounds Sterling
 “ Yearly, according to the Prices the said
 “ Merchandizes were first bought for on
 “ those Coasts and Places from whence
 “ they were exported, together with full
 “ Liberty to build one or more Ware-
 “ houses or Store-houses fit for laying up
 “ Merchandizes, under the Castles and
 “ Forts which shall belong to his said
 “ Majesty or his Subjects on those Coasts,
 “ to hold and enjoy the said Liberties as
 “ long as there doth continue Friendship,
 “ Amity, or good Understanding between
 “ the said King and the said Duke; and upon
 “ due Consideration of the Concession or
 “ Grant, thus made by his Majesty, the said
 “ Duke of *Courland* grants and makes over
 “ unto his said Majesty, his Heirs and Successors,
 “ the Fort of *St. Andrew* in *Guinea*,
 “ and all other Forts, Fortifications, and
 “ Sconces there belonging to the said
 “ Duke, together with all Guns, Bullets,
 “ and Powders, and other Instruments of
 “ War

“ War belonging to the same or any of
 “ those Forts.

“ AND THE SAID Duke of *Courland*
 “ doth agree and promise for himself, his
 “ Heirs and Successors, that they shall
 “ respectively pay to the said Lord the
 “ King, his Heirs and Successors, three
 “ in the hundred for Customs of all
 “ Goods and Merchandizes in Specie, as
 “ into the Ports of his said Majesty in
 “ *Guinea*, or thence exported as afore-
 “ said; and that unto such Officer or
 “ Officers, whom or which his Majesty,
 “ his Heirs or Successors, shall establish or
 “ depute, for the recovering or receiving
 “ of the said Customs or Duties.

“ AND MOREOVER, his said Majesty,
 “ by these Presents, doth give and grant
 “ to the said Duke of *Courland*, his Heirs
 “ and Successors, all and every that Island
 “ called *Tabago*, situate above twelve De-
 “ grees North Latitude and three hun-
 “ dred and sixteen Degrees of Longitude,
 “ being one of those commonly called
 “ the *Caribbee Islands*, together with all
 “ the Lands, Creeks, Rivers, and Profits
 “ to the same belonging, to be held and
 “ and enjoyed under the King's Protec-
 “ tion.

" PROVIDED always, and under the
 " Condition that the said Duke of *Cour-*
 " *land*, his Heirs and Successors, shall
 " not suffer or permit any other whatso-
 " ever, besides his own Subjects, and
 " the Subjects of the said Lord the King,
 " his Heirs and Successors, to abide in
 " the said Island, to settle Plantations or
 " build Houses; but the Subjects of the
 " said Lord the King, his Heirs and
 " Successors, shall be always freely per-
 " mitted to abide in the said Island, and
 " to have Plantations and Houses, and
 " to enjoy all such Privileges, Liberties,
 " Immunities, and Benefits, as any of
 " the Subjects of the said Duke, his Heirs
 " and Successors, shall or may have,
 " hold, use, or enjoy, without any Con-
 " tradiction or Opposition; neither shall
 " they be compelled to pay any other
 " Contributions or Impositions what-
 " soever, saving such as are necessarily
 " required for the Defence of the said
 " Island, and equally in the same Propor-
 " tion paid by the Subjects of the said Duke.
 " Moreover the said Lord Duke agreeth
 " and promiseth, that neither himself, his
 " Heirs and Successors, nor any other for
 " the use of him, them, or his Subjects,
 " shall export or import, or suffer to be
 " exported or imported, any Merchan-
 " dizes

“ dizes, Goods or Provisions of the said
 “ Island of *Tabago*, otherwise than out
 “ of or into some Ports belonging to
 “ *England* and *Courland*, or the Ports
 “ of the City of *Dantzick*.

“ MOREOVER, for the Acknowledg-
 “ ment that the said Duke of *Courland*
 “ doth hold and enjoy the said Island of
 “ *Tabago* from and under his Majesty; it is
 “ further provided and agreed, that when
 “ and as often as the said Lord the
 “ King, his Heirs or Successors, shall so
 “ require it, or when he or they are
 “ engaged in a War against any other
 “ King, Prince, or State, except only
 “ the King of *Poland*, the Duke of
 “ *Courland*, his Heirs and Successors, at
 “ their own proper Costs and Charges,
 “ from Time to Time, shall bring, or
 “ cause to be brought, one good Man
 “ of War furnished with Forty great
 “ Iron Guns, to such Ports, Station or
 “ Place which his said Majesty, his Heirs
 “ and Successors, shall name, into which
 “ Ship his Majesty, his Heirs and Suc-
 “ cessors, shall put Commanders and
 “ Seamen, and supply them with Food
 “ and Wages, under the Conduct and
 “ at the Expences of the said King, so
 “ long as the said Ship shall abide in his
 “ or

“ or their Service, which at one Time
 “ shall never exceed the Limits of a Year.

“ For the Testimony and undoubt-
 “ ed Confirmation whereof, the
 “ above-said Parties, namely,
 “ the most Serene and most
 “ Potent King of *Great Bri-*
 “ *tain*; and the most Illustrious
 “ Duke of *Courland*, have set
 “ their Hands interchangeably to
 “ the mutual Agreement con-
 “ tained and explained in these
 “ Presents, and moreover have
 “ applied their Great Seals for the
 “ Establishment thereof.

In a short Time after this Agreement was made, his *Britannick* Majesty, at the Request of the Duke of *Courland*, gave Notice of it by his Minister at the *Hague* to the *States*. At that Time there was a great Misintelligence between the Maritime Powers, and Things were hastening to a War, which not long after broke out. We need not wonder therefore, that Mr. *Adrian Lampsin*, one of the Directors of the *East India* Company for the Chamber of *Middleburgh*, and a Person of great Interest at that time, was encouraged to treat this Grant in Favour of
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the Duke of *Courland* as invalid, under Pretence he knew of no Right the Crown of *Great Britain* had to the Island therein mentioned. This Gentleman, however, was so conscious of the Defect in his own Title, that he thought proper to apply himself to the *Dutch West India* Company, and to procure a Concession from them in his Favour. He soon after sent over Mr. *Hubert de Beveren*, with the Approbation of the *States*, in Quality of Governor, and began to provide in the best Manner possible for the Security of this new Settlement.

It must be acknowledged, to the Honour of the *Zealanders*, who were employed in the Plantation of *Tabago*, that they exerted themselves with a Zeal and Diligence truly worthy of Applause; and in the Space of a very few Years rendered this one of the finest, and most flourishing Colonies in the *West Indies*. They made Choice of a very convenient Spot of Ground lying on one Side of a fair Port, to which they gave the Name of *Lampsin's Bay*, to lay out a very neat Town, in which there was one handsome broad Street of very good Houses, with a very beautiful Church, and other publick Edifices, and towards the Sea a Line of
large

large well built Warehouses, with convenient Wharfs, and whatever else might contribute to render it a Place commodious for Trade. Upon an adjacent Eminence, at a very small Distance from the Town, they likewise erected a strong and regular Fortress called *Lampsinburgh*. Within this Fort was a convenient House for the Governor, and very good Apartments for the Officers and Soldiers of the Garrison, as also a compleat Arsenal well furnished with Arms and Ammunition. It was defended by four strong Bastions covered with heavy Brass Cannon, and from the Advantage of its Situation commanded equally the Country, the Town, and the Bay.

They built likewise Fort *Beveren* upon a steep Rock, which was on all Sides inaccessible, fronting towards the Sea one Way, and towards a pleasant River on the other. The Rock itself was so hard, that there was no Danger of Mining, and the single Entrance to it was so narrow, that only one Man could pass through at a Time. Immediately under the Guns of this Fortress there was a long narrow *Peninsula*, upon which they likewise erected a Town, to which they gave the Name of *New Flushing*. This was considered

sidered as a Place of very great Importance, chiefly from its Situation, by which it was rendered in a Manner impregnable, at least while supplied with Provisions, and against an Enemy not able to remain there long enough to reduce it by Blockade.

But besides these two Forts, which were chiefly calculated for the Defence of the new Colony against *Europeans*, they built a third called *Belleriviste*, which was no more than a Redoubt, so situated as to command two Points, upon which the Savages were most likely to land; and consequently they were by this Means secured against any sudden Attempts of theirs. In Consequence of these Precautions, the Inhabitants quickly extended their Improvements in a surprizing Manner, and began to undertake at once, tho' in different Places, and according as the Quality of the Soil and Rivers directed, all the Methods usually employed to render the several Islands in *America* beneficial to their Mother Countries. In short, they cultivated Tobacco with great Success in some Places, in others they planted considerable Quantities of Indigo. Not to dwell too long upon this Subject, let it suffice to observe, that by establishing

ing a wise civil Government, independent of the military, and sending over several pious and prudent Ministers who kept up strict Ecclesiastical Discipline, which prevented Idleness and Luxury, *Tabago* was so well settled before the first *Dutch* War broke out, as to have upon it twelve hundred white Inhabitants, and exclusive of all the Improvements beforementioned, six large Sugar-Plantations, and a considerable Number of Ships belonging to the Inhabitants, exclusive of those employed in Trade with them from *Holland*.

In the first *Dutch* War, the new Colony of *Tabago* escaped pretty well at the Beginning, but in the last Year of it, 1666, they had their Share, for the *English* in a great Measure ruined that and all the other *Dutch* Islands, for Want of sufficient Force to protect them; the *Dutch* Fleet, under Commodore *Krynsen*, being employed upon the Coast of the Continent, where he made himself Master of *Surinam*, the last Remains of the several Voyages and Discoveries made in consequence of Sir *Walter Raleigh's* famous Expedition to *Guiana*. But the Stream afterwards turned, the *Dutch* Admiral *Evertz*, in Conjunction with Com-

Commodore *Krynsen*, recovered the Island of *Tabago*, and did a great deal of Mischief upon the Coast of *Virginia*. In *March* 1667, Sir *John Harman* was sent with a Squadron of twelve Men of War to redress these Mischiefs. He performed all that he was sent for, and effectually cleared the Seas of *French* and *Dutch* Rovers; yet he had not been long there, before he found himself pushed by a superior Force. The *Dutch* Commodore *Krynsen*, having embarked on Board his Squadron thirteen hundred Land Troops, sailed to *Martinico*, where he joined Monsieur *de la Bare*, who commanded all the Forces of the *French* King in those Parts. Their Fleet, after this Conjunction, consisted of two and twenty Sail of stout Ships, with which they went to seek the *English* Squadron upon the Coast of *Saint Christophers*. On the 10th of *May* 1667, an Engagement ensued, which lasted with great Vigour for above three Hours, in which the *English*, notwithstanding the superior Force of the Enemy, obtained a compleat Victory. The *Dutch* Historians say, that had it not been for the Courage and Conduct of the Officers of their Fleet, the *French* Admiral had been taken; and on the other hand it is certain,

certain, that those Officers were so ill satisfied with the Behaviour of the *French*, that they quitted them upon their Return to *St. Christophers*. The *English* Admiral with his Fleet came soon after thither, burnt the *French* Admiral and six or seven Ships in the Harbour, and either sunk himself, or obliged the *French* to sink the rest of the Ships that were there except two, and this with the Loss only of eighty Men.

It is proper that the Reader should observe, the *French* and *Dutch* were here on the same Side, and Friends to each other, tho' both Enemies to us ; he will likewise please to observe, that it was by the Assistance of the *French* Fleet, that *Tabago* was recovered by the *Dutch* ; so that at this time, wherever the true Title lay, there was no Dispute whatever between the *Dutch* and *French*, but the latter seemed to consider the former as the right Owners of the Island, or at least treated them as if they were so. Before I quit this Point, it may be also proper to mention, that during this short War, we were taught by Experience of how great Consequence it was not to have the Island of *Tabago* in an Enemy's Hand, for in the Space of four Years several hundred Ships

Ships were taken in the *West-Indies* and carried into some of the Ports in *Tabago*; thither the *Dutch* and *French* Fleets sailed whenever they had occasion to join, or found themselves distressed by our Naval Force; and the Opportunity they had of forming their Fleets in these convenient Harbours, and then falling unexpectedly upon the adjacent *English* Settlements, put the Nation to a constant and a vast Expence, in keeping a Squadron either at *St. Christophers* or *Nevis*, to prevent the Loss of some, if not of all our *Leeward* Islands, which if that Precaution had been neglected, or any of our Officers had failed in doing their Duty, would have been a thing inevitable.

By the Peace of *Breda*, the Island of *Tabago* was left to the *Dutch* by Chance; for as it was a thing impossible to be exactly informed of the Events of the War in *America*, at the time the Peace was signed in *Europe*, the States General proposed to King *Charles* the second two Expedients, and left them to his Majesty's Option, *viz.* whether he would consent that all things should be restored to the State they were in at the breaking out of the War, or whether both Parties should keep what they were in possession

sion of *May 20th 1667*, and only restore what should appear to have been taken after that Date. The King made choice of the latter, by which we were in some respects Gainers, and in others Losers; for by this means the Island of *Poloron* in the *East-Indies* was left to the *Dutch*, *Surinam* our old Colony was restored to them, because recovered by us out of their Hands after the time before-mentioned, and they likewise kept *Tabago* because they happened to recover it before that time; but then the *New Netherlands*, since called *New York*, was left to us, and proved, as all the World knows, a very valuable Acquisition, if that Expression be proper in respect to a Country that belonged to us of right; and of which we were deprived in those times of Confusion, which were so exceedingly fatal both to our Domestick and Foreign Interest.

In the next War that broke out in 1672, the Face of Affairs was very much changed, for now the *English* and *French* acted in Conjunction against the *Dutch*; and as the former could not but remember how much they had suffered from this new Colony, they took care to pay it an early Visit with a superior Force. It

was

was for this Purpose that Sir *Tobias Bridges* having taken a Regiment on board at *Barbadoes*, made a Descent upon this Island, carried off four hundred Prisoners and a greater Number of Slaves. This was in 1673, but it was not long before the *Dutch* recovered themselves, and Vice-Admiral *Evertzen* coming into those Seas, did a great deal of Mischief, recovered part of *New York*, and returned to *Europe* with upwards of fourscore rich Prizes. As in this and in several subsequent Expeditions of the *Dutch*, the *French* had their full Share in the Losses of *America*; this at length provoked them so much, that they determined to take a sharp Revenge, and in this they persisted, notwithstanding the separate Peace which *England* thought fit to make in consequence of some Discoveries as to the bad Behaviour of the *French* in two Sea-Fights, and their having privately made an Offer to the States of treating separately themselves. By this Peace, which was concluded under the Mediation of the *Spanish* Ambassador, Feb. 9th 1674-5, all Places taken on both Sides were restored; and it is worthy of Notice, that none of the Places restored either by the *Dutch* or us were dismantled or destroyed, but

given up in good Condition, and that with great Chearfulness and Cordiality on both sides ; for the Maritime Powers began now to open their Eyes, and to see clearly that they had been doing other Peoples Business at their own Expence, and that while they were weakening each others Naval Force in Disputes that had been artfully kept up by those, who notwithstanding they had drawn their Swords on both sides, had shewn no great Disposition to fighting on either. But tho' this Peace luckily intervened for the Preservation of the Maritime Powers, which otherwise in a few Years must have totally exhausted each other, yet so long the War had lasted, that the *French* were become a Maritime Power in the mean time, and in a Condition to exert all that Resentment which they had conceived against the *Dutch*, for their Losses in the *West-Indies*,

The *Dutch* on the other hand after concluding a Peace with *England*, began to think of availing themselves of their maritime Power in *America* ; and having long regretted the Loss of *Brazil*, as well as being thoroughly sensible of the Advantages derived to them from the Plantation of *Tabago*, which was now become the
most

most considerable Place by them possessed in that part of the World, they formed a Project of making themselves Masters of the Island of *Cayenne*. It was not indeed a Place of any mighty Advantage to the *French*, which made the *Dutch* hope that it might possibly be left to them upon the Conclusion of a Peace ; and not only the Fertility of the Isle itself, but its lying so conveniently in respect to their new acquired Country of *Surinam*, made it a very desirable Object. We have seen what the Views were of both Powers, for the Accomplishment of which, they began to prepare about the same time ; but the *Dutch*, who at that time were certainly the most expeditious People in the World in their Equipments, got their Squadron first ready to sail, which was put under the Command of one of the most famous Seamen in the Service of the States, *James Binkes* Admiral of *Zealand*, who weighed Anchor on the 16th of *March* 1676, and meeting with no Interruption, arrived before the Island of *Cayenne* on the 4th of *May* following.

This *Dutch* Admiral was equally famous for using his Head and his Hands ; he understood his Trade perfectly well, and with a very good military *Genius* had so

quick and lively a Courage, that he executed without Loss of Time the Schemes that he formed, almost at first Sight. As soon therefore as he perceived that there was no great Difficulty in landing, he debarked all the Forces that he had on board, amounting to eleven hundred Men, and having directed his People to begin with plundering the Plantations, as if he had meant nothing more than to make the best Booty he could, he prevented the *French* from discovering his real Design, and when they least expected it, attacked the Fort, which he carried in the Space of three Hours, making the Governor and his Garrison Prisoners of War. By this means he became Master of the whole Island, and having left a sufficient Garrison, sailed for the *Antilles*, where, on the first of *June*, he surprized the Island of *Marigalante*, and soon after made a very brisk Attempt upon *Guadalupe*, but finding the *French* too strong there, he re-imbarked his Forces ; and on the 23d of the same Month made a Descent on the Island of *St. Martin*, and having plundered it of every thing valuable, bore away for *Tabago*.

The *French*, surprized and exasperated at the Loss of *Cayenne*, hastened out the
Count

Count *d'Estrees* with a Squadron of ten Men of War and Frigates, with Orders to retake the Island of *Cayenne*, and then to prosecute the first Design of attacking *Tabago*. The Count sailed from *Brest* in the Month of *October*, and arrived at *Cayenne* about the middle of *December* following, where having landed his Forces and summoned the *Dutch* Governor, he received a very stout Answer. But the Defence was not suitable to their Promise of defending the Place to the last Extremity, for after sustaining one Attack, in which they lost but thirty-eight Men, the *Dutch* Governor surrendered himself and his Garrison Prisoners of War. The Count *d'Estrees*, flushed with this Success, prosecuted his Expedition, recovered the Island of *Marigalante*, and then sailed to *Martinico*, where having refitted and reinforced his Squadron, he resolved to proceed to *Tabago*, where the *Dutch* Admiral still remained, and had provided with great Industry, to afford him a good Reception.

Admiral *Binkes*, foreseeing that the *French* would make their utmost Efforts to dispossess his Countrymen of that important Island, burnt the Houses that were in the Neighbourhood of the Fort, to
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prevent the Enemy's lodging in them, ranged a sufficient Number of Barrels filled with Earth upon the Ramparts, and erected five new Batteries for its Defence; he imagined that the *French* could hardly hope to force an Entrance into the Bay, where he had ten large Ships, three Frigates, and a Fire-ship; but however, that he might be secure at all Events, he constructed several Batteries even with the Water's Edge for the Protection of the Port, and these Dispositions made, he waited the Arrival of the Enemy. The Count *d'Estrees* anchored before *Tabago* February 15th 1677, and having considered the Preparations the *Dutch* had made for his Reception, resolved first to make a Descent, and then a general Attack by Land and Sea, in order to decide the Fate of the Island at once.

Upon the third of *March*, which happened that Year to be *Good-Friday*, the Count *d'Estrees* began with great Fury the Attack on all Sides, and both the *French* and the *Dutch* behaved as well as it was possible for Men to do. The Place where the Ships were engaged afforded them so little Room, that it was almost from the very Beginning a close Fight, Yard-
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Arm to Yard Arm ; at length the Count *d'Estrees* in his own Ship that bore along thro' the Fire of the *Dutch* Vessels, the Fort and the Batteries upon the Shore, boarded the Rear-Admiral, took her, and soon after another Ship of the same Size. A large *French* Man of War bearing down upon Admiral *Binkes* with all her Sail set, the *Dutchman* had the Address to tack at the very Instant she came down, and giving her a Broadside as she passed, saw her at once on Shore and on Fire ; but his Satisfaction was of very short Duration, for not believing that the *French* would have attacked him in the Port, he put the Women, the Children, and Slaves on board two Flutes that were anchored in the Rear of the Fleet, between which Flutes the *French* Man of War fell, and all three consumed together. As for the *French* Troops on shore, they had Orders from the Count not to attack the Fort till they saw him engaged, upon a Presumption that Admiral *Binkes* might find it necessary to withdraw Part of the Garrison. However the Officer who commanded them advancing under the Cover of a Wood, believing he had a fair Opportunity of surprizing them, ventured to exceed his Orders, and began
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the Attack before the Fleets were engaged. The Palisades before the Fort taking up a good deal of Room, the *Dutch* were inclined to abandon them, but the *French* Refugees who had taken Shelter amongst them, persuaded them to drop that Design, and the Reception the *French* met with was so very warm, that they were soon glad to retire, leaving their Scaling-Ladders, all their other Utenfils, and the best of their Officers behind them ; so that here they failed absolutely.

The Sea-Fight continued still with great Vigour ; but at last the Count *d'Estrees* having lost his own fine Ship, and himself wounded in the Head and Leg, took Advantage of the Night and wore out of the Port as well as he could, having had two Ships burnt, two taken, and two dismasted ; the *Dutch* on their Side had three Vessels sunk, and ten burnt, but of these only five were Men of War ; as to Soldiers and Seamen, both Sides lost a great many. The *French*, by a Logick peculiar to their Schools, concluded this to be a Victory, and made Bonfires for it at *Paris* ; the *States General* pretended to the Victory too, but without making any Rejoicings.

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This Action however gave occasion to a very high Act of Justice. There was one Captain *Bont*, who forgot his Duty so far as to leave Admiral *Binkes* when he was in the greatest Danger, for which he was sentenced to lose his Head, and this was executed in the great Court before the College of Admiralty in *Amsterdam*; which necessary Severity for the Preservation of Naval Discipline, a Thing of such high Consequence to a Maritime Power, was universally commended, tho' the *Dutch* Populace are, generally speaking, averse to such Proceedings.

The Count *d'Estrees* was very well received in *France*, tho' he brought back with him only four of his Ships, and those in no very good Condition; nay, so far was the Court from being inclined to desist from its first Design on the Score of this Disappointment, that in little more than thirteen Weeks a new Squadron was drawn together, consisting of eight Sail of large Men of War, and as many Frigates, well supplied with every thing necessary for the Accomplishment of that Project in which he had failed before. The Count *d'Estrees* sailed with the first fair Wind, and October 30th
1677,

1677, came before the *Dutch* Fort at *Goeree* upon the Coast of *Guinea*, which he summoned; the *Dutch* Governor answered, that he was not unacquainted with the Character of the Count *d'Estrees*, and that he would endeavour to merit the Esteem of so brave a Man by making a good Defence. The Count judged from this Compliment that the Man was in earnest, and that nothing was to be done but by Force. He therefore first blocked up the Place by Sea, and then landed four hundred and fifty Men, and sixty Grenadiers, under the Command of the Marquis *de Grandcey*, who stormed the Lower Fort, of which they quickly became Masters; but the Upper was defended with great Obstinacy, till at length thro' the Want of Amunition, the *Dutch* Governor was forced to surrender, when the *French* having burnt both Forts, and all the Houses upon the Island, put every thing of Value that fell into their Hands on board their Fleet, and then sailed for *Barbadoes*, where they arrived on the first of *December* following, expecting to meet with a Reinforcement from *Martinico*, which accordingly arrived in a few Days, and thereby put him in a Condition to carry into

into their utmost Extent the Execution of the Orders received.

The Count *d'Estrees* suffered no Time to be lost, but on the seventh of the same Month presented himself before the Island of *Tabago*. The very next Night he landed five hundred Men under the Count *de Blenac*, Governor of the *French* Islands in *America*, the next Day he landed a thousand more, and on the tenth both these Bodies arrived within six hundred Paces of the Fort they were to attack. General *Binkes* was in the Place, having made all the Dispositions necessary for a vigorous Defence, expecting every Hour the Arrival of a *Dutch* Fleet that he knew had been equipped for his Relief, upon the first Advice of the *French* Squadron's being sailed for *America*. The Count *d'Estrees* having made his Approaches on the eleventh, and finding by the prodigious Fire from the Place that they were in no Want of Ammunition, he resolved to try what might be done by a Bombardment. It fell out very unluckily for the *Dutch*, that the third Bomb he fired fell into their great Magazine of Powder, which blew up instantly with all the Places about it. General *Binkes* and all the Officers, except one Captain

Captain *Donge*, perished by this fatal Blow. The *French*, resolved to make use of the Advantage which the Disorder occasioned by this Accident afforded, advanced immediately to storm the Fort, which surrendered at Discretion. The Remains of the Garrison, consisting of about three hundred Men, were made Prisoners of War; all the Ships in the Port fell likewise into their Hands; and having destroyed the Fortresses, and burnt all the Houses in the Island, the Count *d'Estrees* sailed from thence with a great Booty and a vast Number of Prisoners, on the 27th of *December* 1677, having fully executed his Commission. The Prisoners were soon after sent into *Holland*, and the States shewed a very sensible Concern for a Stroke of such Importance, as deprived them at once of a valuable Island, a flourishing Colony, and a gallant Officer, whose great Abilities and eminent Services made him infinitely regretted.

If we may depend upon the Account given of this Matter by the Duke of *Courland's* Minister, the *French* Merchants immediately made an Application for Leave to settle the Island of *Tabago*; but that Minister assures us that *Lewis*
XIV.

XIV. absolutely rejected that Proposition, and declared he looked upon it as belonging to a neutral Prince, who, as he had not any Share in the Quarrel, ought by no Means to suffer through its Event. The *Dutch* indeed give quite another Turn to this Affair, and affirm that the Island was restored to them by Virtue of the Vth Article of the Treaty of *Nimwegen*; which is conceived however only in general Terms, and without any Mention of this, or indeed any other Place. But let that Clause be taken in what Sense it will, it can amount to no more than a Restitution of the Island to the *Dutch* by the *French* in the Situation it was, I mean in respect to *Title* before the Commencement of the War; yet as this is a Matter of some Consequence, and will not perhaps be very clear to every Reader, it may not be amiss to explain it.

We have before shewn, that the Dispute between the Duke of *Courland* and the *Dutch* commenced in the Year 1658, near seven Years before the War broke out between *Great-Britain* and *Holland*. Our taking therefore this Island from the *Dutch*, supposing it had remained in our Hands, as it must have done, if the *Dutch* had

had recovered it after the Time stipulated in the Treaty of *Breda*, would no way have affected that Dispute ; and consequently the Restitution, by the Treaty of *Breda*, could as little affect it, In like manner, the Restitution of *Tabago*, by the fifth Article of the Treaty of *Nimwegen*, makes no Accession of Title to the *Dutch*, but frees them only from any Claim the Crown of *France* might set up in virtue of their *Conquest*. If this was to be any otherwise understood, it would lead to manifest Injustice and Absurdity ; to manifest Injustice, because it is supposed that the Rights of a third Person may be taken away, without any Decision by a competent Judge ; to manifest Absurdity, because in this Case we should maintain that more might be got by losing, than by keeping an Island ; for it is universally agreed, that a violent Possession cannot confer Right, and therefore the Loss of this Possession, and the Recovery of it again, cannot any way operate to this Purpose. But it may be said that all Restitutions have a Meaning, which is allowed, and the Meaning in this Case is very plain. *Conquest* confers a Right, that is, the Conqueror acquires a good Title against
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the Conquered, and this Title he relinquishes when he stipulates a Restitution. But Conquest gives no Right against a third Party, that is, neither *Great-Britain* nor *France*, by becoming Masters of *Tabago*, could defeat the Title of the Duke of *Courland*, and consequently their Restitutions could as little affect his Title. They did indeed bar their Pretensions from Conquest against the *Dutch*, and nothing more. All this is so agreeable to Reason and good Sense, as well as strongly founded in the Principles of the Law of Nations, that nothing can be plainer.

This, as it was a Thing clear in itself, was understood to be the Sense of the Matter at that Time; for the Duke of *Courland*, as soon as he found the *Dutch* were driven out, and the Island open again, applied himself to King *Charles II.* in order to have the Benefit of his Grant; and accordingly that Monarch directed an Order to Sir *Jonathan Atkins*, Governor of *Barbadoes*, dated *January 19 1680*, directing him not only to permit and suffer the Commanders and Officers of the Ships the Duke was then sending, to furnish themselves with any thing they might want; but also to aid and assist them with his Authority whenever there should be

Occasion. But by the way, it must be observed, that though this was the first Letter the Governor of *Barbadoes* received, or that had any Effect ; yet it was not the first applied for by the Duke, or written by the King. For sometime before this his Serene Highness had fitted out a Ship called the *Flower-Pot*, with every thing necessary for settling a Plantation, under the Command of one Captain *Nagel*, who had the like Letters from his *Britannick* Majesty ; but that Captain betrayed the Ship and Cargo into the Hands of the *Algerines*, which made a second Application necessary. Before the Arrival of his Highness's Ships, Sir *Jonathan Atkins* was removed, but his Successor Sir *Richard Dutton*, in Obedience to the King's Orders, gave what Assistance was demanded, or was in his Power ; in Consequence of which, the Duke's Governor landed upon, and once more took Possession of the Island. In the Year 1681, his Highness entered into a Contract with one Captain *Pointz*, who undertook to form a Company for the Establishment of this Island ; and to him and his Company the Duke granted 120,000 Acres of Land, upon very advantageous Terms ; but for any Thing
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that appears, this Contract was never carried into Execution, but the Island has remained ever since in much the same Condition as before, either the *Courlanders* or the *Dutch* settled upon it; that is, open to the Ships of every *European* Nation.

When one considers how valuable a Place this Island is in itself, and how much more so from the Conveniency of Situation for the carrying on of *that* Trade, especially which has been esteemed the most beneficial in the *West-Indies*; it appears to be a Thing extremely difficult to account for its being left in this desolate and abandoned Condition, when so much Pains has been taken for the settling and improving Places of far less Value and Significance, except from the Consideration of this perplexed and embarrassed Title, which has but lately been cleared up by the failing of the Succession of the House of *Kettler*, as Dukes of *Courland*, by which the Property and Possession of the Island indubitably reverts to the Crown of *Great-Britain*, to which the absolute Sovereignty always belonged, and which, if it had not been apparent and incontestable, no Reason can possibly be assigned, why the Duke of *Courland*

should submit to take a Grant of that Island from King *Charles II.* in the Manner beforementioned.

It is no kind of Objection to this; that Mr. *Cornelius Lampsin* procured himself to be created Baron of *Tabago*, by *Lewis XIV.* for that could be only to intitle himself, his Descendants, and those who settled under their Auspice in *Tabago*, to certain Privileges in *France*, as the *Dutch* Writers themselves have very well observed. For had it been otherwise, this would have been to all Intents and Purposes a *French* Settlement, and instead of destroying, as the Count *D'Estrees* did, so fair and flourishing Colony in 1677, he would have summoned the Inhabitants to have returned to the Obedience of their Sovereign, and upon their so doing, would have protected them against the Resentment of the Republick. At this Time therefore, it is most evident, that the *French* had not the least Notion of any other Claim to this Island, than what arose from Conquest, and which was rendered void by the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, and by all the Treaties that have been since founded upon it.

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But this Matter might be still carried much farther, by shewing that the most learned and intelligent of the *French* Writers have been always ignorant of any such Title being so much as pretended; and have on the contrary, upon numberless occasions, acknowledged this Island did not belong to their Crown; and have even vindicated our Claim in the clearest manner possible; which whoever considers the State of the Press in *France*, and with what Care and Diligence every thing of this kind is examined before it is permitted to become publick, must appear an Argument of very great weight.

It would be at once both tedious and useless to cite a great Number of Instances upon this Subject, and therefore a few only shall suffice. The first I shall mention is, *Methode pour apprendre facilement la Geographie*, by Mr. Robbe, written for the Use and dedicated to the Duke du *Maine*, the legitimated Son of *Lewis XIV.* In this Method of learning Geography easily, there is a Table of the Islands called *Caribbees*, in which eleven are said to belong to the *French*, but *Tabago* is not of that Number. In the *Dictionnaire universel de Commerce*, by Mr. *James Savary*,

a most useful and accurate Work, compiled, as the historical Preface tells us, by the Direction and under the Eye of the *French* Ministry, the *Antilles* belonging to *France* are reckoned to have been *ten* before the Peace of *Utrecht*, by which the Moiety of *St. Christophers* was yielded to the *English*, and yet *Tabago* is not amongst the Number. This is a very considerable as well as a very modern Authority; but I will produce one still later, and at the same time no less authentick.

In DE LISLE's *Atlas* printed in 1733, there is a very elegant Chart, which bears the following Title, *Carte des Antilles Francoises, et des Isles Voisnes, Dressée sur les Memoires Manuscrits de Monsr. Petit, Ingenieur du Roy, et sur quelques Observations par Guillaume de Lisle, de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, et premier Geographe du Roy*; that is, "A Chart of the *French Antilles*, and of the neighbouring Islands, "drawn according to the Manuscript Memoirs of Mr. *Petit*, the King's Engineer, as also upon other Observations, "by *William de Lisle*, of the Academy "Royal of Sciences, and first Geographer to the King." Now in this Chart it so falls out, that the Island of *Tabago* does

does not so much as make its Appearance ; so that as far as these two learned Persons knew any thing of the Matter, (and I presume that in Matters of this Nature, their Reputations are at least as good as those of any Men in *France*) *Tabago* is so far from being one of the *French Antilles*, that it is not so much as in their Neighbourhood ; which appears still more clearly by the giving a Place to *Barbadoes* in this Map, as supposing no other Boundary necessary.

But I must not part with this valuable Authority so easily ; it contains still more to my Purpose : Indeed so much to my Purpose, that I think myself obliged to give the original *French*, that I may not be suspected of having added or diminished any thing to bring it to my Sense. On the Right Hand Corner of this Map stands the following Remark.

“ Les *Antilles Francoises* sont la *Martinique*, la *Guadeloupe* ou la grand Terre, partie de Saint *Martin*, la *Desirade*, *Marie Galante*, Sainte *Lucie* ou Sainte *Aloufie*, *Grenade*, Saint *Barthelemi*, Sainte *Croix*, et les *Saintes*. La *Martinique* est le plus considerable de toutes, et la Demeure de Gouverneur des *Antilles Francoises*. Elle est situee sous le 15

“ Degre 5 Min. de Lat. Sept. et peut avoir
 “ 45 a 50 Lieues de tour. Les *François*
 “ commencerent à l’ habiter l’ an 1635,
 “ et y sont aujourd’hui au nombre de plus
 “ de 15 mille. Cette Ile aussi bien que
 “ le *Guadeloupe* produit d’ excellent Sucre,
 “ de l’ Indigo, et du Tabac. L’ autre
 “ Moitié de l’ Ile Saint *Martin* appartient
 “ aux *Hollandois*. La *Desirade* n’a rien
 “ de considerable. *Marie Galante* au Sud
 “ de la *Guadeloupe* est entrecoupee de pe-
 “ tites Montagnes, et produit beaucoup
 “ de Tabac. Sainte *Lucie* fut habitee en
 “ 1650, la *Grenade* en 1652, Sainte *Croix*
 “ en 1650, les *Saintes* en 1648. Toutes
 “ ces Iles s’ appellent de *Barlovento*.

“ Les Iles *Angloises* sont *Barbadoes*,
 “ *Antigua*, *Barbuda*, *Anguilla*, *Nevis*,
 “ *Montserrat*, *TABAGO*, et Saint *Chri-*
 “ *stophe*. La plus considerable est *Barba-*
 “ *does*, situee à 14 Deg. de Lat. Sept. au
 “ Sud-est de la *Martinique*.

In *English* thus: “ The *French Antilles*
 “ are *Martinico*, *Guadaloupe*, or the *Great*
 “ *Land*, part of *St. Martin’s*, *Desirada*,
 “ *Marygallant*, *St. Lucia*, or *St. Alouisia*,
 “ *Grenada*, *St. Bartholomew*, the *Holy Cross*
 “ and the *Saints* (three small Islands so
 “ called) near *Martinico*; this last men-
 “ tioned

" tioned Island is the most considerable
 " all, and the Residence of the Governor
 " of the *French Antilles*. This Island
 " is situated under fifteen Degrees five Mi-
 " nutes of North Latitude, and may be
 " between forty five and fifty Leagues in
 " Circumference. The *French* began to
 " inhabit it in 1635, and are at this time
 " upwards of fifteen thousand. This Island
 " as well as *Guadaloupe* produces excellent
 " Sugar, Indigo, and Tobacco. The
 " other Moiety of *St. Martin* belongs to
 " the *Dutch*; *Desirada* is of no great
 " Importance; *Marygallant* to the South
 " of *Guadaloupe* is intersected by Moun-
 " tains, but very fruitful nevertheless in
 " Tobacco; *St. Lucia* was inhabited in
 " 1650; *Grenada* in 1652, *Holy Cross*
 " in 1650, the *Saints* in 1648. All these
 " Islands are called *Leeward*.

" The *English* Islands are, *Barbadoes*,
 " *Antigua*, *Barbuda*, *Anguilla*, *Nevis*,
 " *Montserrat*, *TABAGO*, and *St. Chri-*
 " *stopher's*. The most considerable is *Bar-*
 " *badoes*, situated in fourteen Degrees of
 " North Latitude to the South-East of
 " *Martinico*."

It is no great Wonder that these learned
 and intelligent Gentlemen should not be
 acquainted with the Claim of the Crown
 of

of *France*, because, whenever it shall be stated, as we are threatned with a large Deduction of proofs in favour of this Title, it will appear of quite another kind than any of those that are usually set up to such Islands, and with which therefore these Gentlemen were like to be unacquainted. For in respect to Islands and Countries in *America*, it has been usual to found a Right to them in the first Discovery, in the most early Possession, in Purchase, in Conquest, or in Cession.

Now, I presume, that if all these Points are fairly examined, it would not be extremely easy to find out whence the *French* Title can derive so much as a Colour. It cannot be from Discovery, for this Island received its Name from the *Spaniards* above a hundred Years before it came to the Notice or Knowledge of the *French*. By the way, as I do not recollect any Author who has given a clear account of this Name, and as many have expressed a Doubt, whether the Island was so called from the Herb, or the Herb from the Island; I hope the curious and inquisitive Reader will be well pleased to see that Matter set in its true light; for the Fact is, that neither the Island received its name from the Herb, nor the Herb from

from the Island. The Appellation is indeed *Indian*, and yet was bestowed by the *Spaniards*. The thing happened thus; The *Caribbees* were extremely fond of Tobacco, which in their Language they called *Kobiba*, and fancied that when they were drunk with the Fumes of it, the Dreams they had were in some sort inspired. Now their Method of taking it was this: They first made a Fire of Wood, and when it was burnt out they scattered upon the living Embers the Leaves of the Plant, and received the Smoke of it by the Help of an Instrument that was hollow, made exactly in the Shape of the Letter Y, putting the longer Tube into the Smoke, and thrusting the shorter Tubes up their Nostrils. This Instrument they called *Tabago*, and when the Admiral *Christopher Columbus* passed to the Southward of this Island he judged the Form of it to resemble that Instrument, and thence it received its Name.

As the *French* cannot pretend, in any degree, to the Discovery and Nomination of this Island, so with as little Justice can they pretend to have settled first in its Neighbourhood; for, as we have shewn, the *English* had actually settled *Barbadoes*, and intended to have settled *Tabago*, as ap-
 pears

pears by the early Grant of it to the Earl of *Pembroke*, long before the *French* had any Opportunity of forming Claims. Besides, when they did settle, it was at the very opposite End of the Bow ; and it is very apparent from the short Account given above, that many Years elapsed before they had settled the Islands that were nearest to them ; whereas the first and best settled of all our Leeward Islands, *Barbadoes*, is the nearest to *Tabago*, and the most to the South, except that, of all the *Antilles*. We might add to this, but that the Thing is already so plain that there need nothing more be said upon it, many full and substantial Proofs, that tho' the *French* were never backwards in forming Pretensions, and putting the Names of Islands into their Governors Commissions long before they had any Colour of Right to them, yet they did not think of swelling the Number of those Titles with the Name of that Island ; and if they had, one of their own Writers has given us such an Account of the Matter as would effectually set it aside. He says, that such Kind of Instruments did not procure any Right whatever in respect to other Nations, in case those Islands were not actually settled by the *French*, but were intended merely

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to put it in the Power of the Crown to convey a Right at the Request of any of its own Subjects who should actually desire to settle uninhabited Islands, against other Subjects of the same Crown, who might interfere with them; and in consequence of their fitting out Ships to take Possession of such Islands, might arrogate to themselves the Dominion of the Whole or any Part. This is very reasonable in itself, and accounts very well for a Practice that might otherwise appear equally unreasonable and unjust.

As to Purchase or Exchange, the Title arising from thence can never be a Secret. We know very well what Difficulties the *French* Crown and its Subjects had in the original Settlement of the Islands they possess; we know that they were granted to Companies; we know that those Companies sold them to the Knights of *Malta*, with the Approbation of the Crown, and with the Reservation only of its Sovereignty, which was to be manifested by the Present or Tribute of a Gold Crown of a certain Value, to be presented upon the Accession of every new Prince: and we likewise know how this Grant was rendered void, and the Possession, as well as Sovereignty of those Islands, resumed again

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to the Crown of *France*. We are likewise not at all ignorant of the Bargains made with the *Caribbees*, or of what has been said in that respect, of the legal Right resulting from such Agreements, in preference to the barbarous Method of extirpating whole Nations, in order to acquire a Title to the Countries which they possessed. But as to the Bargain and Sale of *Tabago*, no such thing was ever heard of, there could not in Truth be any such Thing ; for the Nation of the *Caribbees* were in reality dispossessed of this Island by their Enemies, before the *French* had an Opportunity of treating with them ; and therefore such a Title is altogether absurd and impossible.

We have already insisted sufficiently in reference to whatever can be advanced as to Conquest. We have shewn that this cannot be pleaded against the *Dutch*, who were indeed once dispossessed by the *French* of *Tabago* ; and if not against them, much less against us, from whom this Island was never taken. We have farther shewn, That that great Conqueror *Lewis XIV.* before the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, and when, if ever such a Title could have been pretended, that Pretence might have been set up, rejected it with

a generous Contempt, and declared, that tho' he had treated the *Dutch* as Enemies, yet he had no Quarrel with the Prince who claimed by a prior Title, and who derived that Title from the Crown of *Great Britain*. It is impossible therefore that any Claim should rest upon this Foundation at any other Time, when, in the only Season at which it could be insisted upon with the least Colour or Appearance of Justice, it was declared to be groundless, and with very good Cause, in respect to the Duke of *Courland*, and to us ; for as to the former, he was a neutral Prince, and as to King *Charles* the Second, he was then the most Christian King's good Ally ; neither was the least Umbrage taken at all the subsequent Acts done in favour of the Duke of *Courland*, which evidently proves what the Sentiments of the Crown of *France* were, with regard to his Rights and ours in those Times.

Lastly, As to any Right accruing from Cession, this was never heard of or pretended. It appears plainly from the Agreement between King *Charles* the Second and the Duke of *Courland*, that the latter had no Power to alienate ; nay, had not so much as a Power to grant a Freedom of Trade, in case he had actually established

established a Colony in *Tabago*, to any other Nation whatever. Upon the Whole therefore, we need not at all wonder, that the most skilful of the *French* Geographers, or those who had the Commerce of the *French* Isles most at Heart, should be absolutely silent as to any Claim upon *Tabago*, and should even acknowledge the Right to that Island in us. All the Transactions before recited have a direct Tendency to this Point; and therefore it was highly natural for Men of Learning and Candour to see Things in the Light they did. Some indeed have seen less clearly than others, but the most clear sighted are on our Side; and he must be an *Argus* of a Geographer, who can be able to frame, with the least Appearance of Consistency or Truth, a Title for the *French* King to this Island.

The *English* Governors of *Barbadoes* always had, in virtue of their Commission, a delegated Authority from the Crown of *Great Britain* over this Island, which they never failed to exercise and exert upon every proper Occasion, of which, if it was necessary, innumerable Instances might be given. The first Time, I believe, that ever the *French* Pretensions

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to this Island were mentioned, was on account of the Dispute about *St. Lucia* ; and then were only hinted in indirect Terms in the Postscript of a Letter from *M. du Quesne* General of the *French* Islands, to which *Mr. Sharp*, then President of *Barbadoes* made a very brisk Reply, in a Letter of his dated from *Barbadoes*, *February* 21st 1714, from which I will cite two or three Paragraphs :

“ I received your Excellency’s Letter
 “ of the 24th by *Mr. Valinmier*, complaining, &c. The Regard I had for
 “ your Excellency’s Letter, obliged me
 “ to enquire into this Affair ; and I cannot find that any of the King’s Ships
 “ have done what is alledged therein ;
 “ or that they have any way acted contrary to their Duty.”

“ The King my Master’s sole right of
 “ Sovereignty to that Island *St. Lucia*,
 “ cannot be unknown to you, nor is it
 “ now to be controverted ; and therefore,
 “ Sir, it cannot be permitted that any
 “ Persons, other than his Majesty’s own
 “ Subjects, should settle or cut Wood
 “ there without his Majesty’s Licence ;
 “ I must therefore earnestly press you to
 “ give Orders, that such of the King your

“ Master’s Subjects as I hear are about to
 “ settle here, may forthwith remove, and
 “ that none of them resettle there for
 “ the future, lest by such a Procedure
 “ the good Understanding between the
 “ two Crowns be indeed interrupted.

“ The same Right the King my Ma-
 “ ster has to the Island of *Tabago*: and
 “ therefore I cannot but be surprized at
 “ the Postscript of your Letter, wherein
 “ you say it is not lawful for his Majesty’s
 “ Subjects to cut Wood there.”

The Reader will be pleased to observe, that this Letter regards the Dispute begun by the *French*, which was several Years prior to the Grant made by his late Majesty to his Grace the Duke of *Montague*, and the Pretence then set up to the Island of *St. Lucia* was exactly of the same Nature with that of which we have lately heard in respect to the Island of *Tabago*; for this Complaint of the Conduct of our Captains was to make way for a Grant by the *French* Crown to the Marshal de *Estrees*, which followed some Years after; but the then Governor of *Barbadoes*, who, if I mistake not, was *Robert Lowther*, Esq; threatened to dispossess those who attempted to settle under that Grant by Force; and this Matter was represented with so much Spirit

Spirit by our Ambassador at the *French* Court, that Orders were immediately transmitted from thence for the Evacuation of *St. Lucia*, which was done, notwithstanding the Stratagems which the General of the *French* Islands before mentioned, had, to try the Temper of the Government of *Barbadoes*, made Use of in his Letter to Mr. President *Sharp*, whose Conduct was approved at Home, and a Letter of Thanks written to him by the Earl of *Sunderland*, his late Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, upon that Subject.

It is not at all improbable therefore, that the present Governor of *Barbadoes* might have this as well as other Precedents in his Eye, when upon a late Occasion he sent a Monitory to the *French* Intruders on the Island of *Tabago*, signifying his *Britannick* Majesty's unquestionable Right to that Island, and his Obligation to take Notice of their Infringement of his Majesty's Rights, but it is not easy to discover what Precedent the *French* Governor copied when he thought fit to issue, as he is said to have done, the following most extraordinary Proclamation, which that it really came from him must appear much

more incredible than he affects to think the Publication of the *British* Governor's Paper.

*Ordinance of the General of the French
Leeward Islands in America.*

“ **C**HARLES de Thebieres de Levi,
 “ de Pestel, de Grimoard, Marquis of
 “ Caylus, Knight of the Order of St.
 “ John of Jerusalem, and of the Royal
 “ and Military Order of St. Lewis, Com-
 “ mander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships,
 “ his Governor and Lieutenant General
 “ of the Islands of Martinico, Guade-
 “ loupe, Grande, and Petit Terre, Des-
 “ eada, Mary Gallant, The Saints, Do-
 “ minico, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Be-
 “ quia, Canaouan, Cairiouacou, Grenade,
 “ and of all the Islands and Islets com-
 “ monly called the Grenadillos, Tabago, St.
 “ Bartholomew, St. Martin, Cayan, and the
 “ Continent comprehended between the
 “ Rivers of the Amazon and Oronoque.

“ The Island of Tabago, commonly
 “ called Tobacco, one of those under
 “ our Government indisputably belonging
 “ to his Majesty, and the Property which
 “ he has in it having been authentically
 “ acknowledged by Treaties, and no
 “ Prince or Sovereign Power whatsoever
 “ laid

“ laid any Pretension to the Sovereignty
 “ or Dominion of the same, has ob-
 “ liged us to give no Credit to an Infor-
 “ mation we have received, that a small
 “ Frigate stiling herself *English*, and
 “ authorized by certain pretended Powers,
 “ issued from the Governor of *Barba-*
 “ *does*, should have been about a Month
 “ since at the Island of *Tabago*, and
 “ there clandestinely stuck up to Trees,
 “ in different Parts of the same, a pre-
 “ tended Proclamation, importing, that
 “ Mr. *Greenville*, Governor of *Barbadoes*,
 “ who in the same Proclamation calls
 “ himself without any Foundation, Go-
 “ vernor of *St. Lucia*, *Domingo*, *St.*
 “ *Vincent*, and *Tabago*, together with all
 “ the other Islands, Colonies and Plan-
 “ tations in *America*, commonly called
 “ or known by the Name of the *Ca-*
 “ *ribbee* Islands; which Islands and Plan-
 “ tations nevertheless belonged indispu-
 “ tably to his Majesty, had ordered the
 “ Inhabitants of *Tabago*, who are all
 “ Subjects to his Majesty, to quit the
 “ same in the Space of thirty Days, giv-
 “ ing them to understand that they
 “ must expect military Execution in case
 “ of their Non-compliance; the Nature
 “ of such an Act, and the Terms in
 “ which

“ which it is conceived, puts it out of all
 “ Doubt, that it could never have pro-
 “ ceeded from the Governor of *Barba-*
 “ *does*, but that it is the Work of some
 “ evil-disposed Persons, and determines us
 “ to wave the demanding any Satisfaction
 “ from the pretended Author of it, who
 “ in all Probability had no hand in it.

“ Nevertheless it being necessary to
 “ hinder any Person, of what Quality,
 “ Condition, or Nation soever they may
 “ be, from falling into the Snare laid for
 “ them : We declare to all the Subjects
 “ of his Majesty who are settled upon the
 “ said Island of *Tabago*, as well *Whites*
 “ as *Indians, Negroes, Mulattoes, Mestees,*
 “ and all others that it may concern,
 “ that we will defend them against the
 “ Attempts that any Nation, Strangers to
 “ us, may form against the said Island, and
 “ that we will send them such a Quantity
 “ of Ammunitions and Provisions as they
 “ may stand in need of.

“ We prohibit their having any Cor-
 “ respondence or Dealing with neigh-
 “ bouring Colonies, belonging either to
 “ the *English, Dutch, or Danes*, or to
 “ suffer any of them to continue among
 “ them, or to permit their coming on
 “ Shore in the said Island of *Tabago*,
 “ until

“ until such Time as we have sent a
 “ commanding Officer with regular
 “ Troops for their Protection and De-
 “ fence.

“ It is our Will, that these Presents be
 “ read, published, and set up in all the
 “ Quarters of the said Island of *Tabago*,
 “ that no Person whatever may plead
 “ Ignorance of the same.

“ Given under our Seal at Arms,
 “ and the Counter-Sign of our
 “ first Secretary, at *Martinico*
 “ the 7th of *December* 1748.

Le Marquis de CAYLUS.

By his Lordship's Command,

MOURET.

After reading the foregoing succinct
 and clear History of all that has happen-
 ed with Regard to this Island, from its
 first Discovery to this Time, the Reader
 will know perfectly well what to think
 of this Island's being the indisputable
 Property of the Crown of *France*, but
 still farther out of Dispute by the re-
 peated Confirmations of Treaties, and
 that

that for this wonderful Reason, that no other Prince having ever laid Claim to it, there never could be any Dispute at all. He will likewise see, by this Proclamation, where the original Grief lay; it was not a bare Suspicion, a hasty Information, or an unsupported Account, that induced so much Notice to be taken by the Governor of *Barbadoes*, but an actual Settlement upon the Island of *Tabago*, which this great *French* Governor frankly acknowledges, roundly avows, and expressly declares his Resolution to maintain by Force. As much was said in 1719, when Marshal *d'Estrees* was about to settle *St. Lucia*; but the Island was soon after evacuated for all that, and so may *Tabago*.

One Thing it may be fit to remark before we conclude, which is, that the Extinction of the Male Line of the House of *Kettler* seems to have excited this Humour of settling *Tabago*; for I find, that in 1743, the *Dutch West India* Company made a Grant to a Person, whose Name I cannot at present recollect, as they formerly did to the *Lampfins*; but if there were ever so many Grants, *French* and *Dutch*, they can never preclude or Prejudice the clear Right.

of

of the Crown of *Great Britain*, in Virtue of which the original Grant was made to *James Kettler* Duke of *Courland*, his Heirs and Successors; and those Heirs and Successors failing, there can be no Question, that the Fief returns to the Chief Lord, and may be granted out again, or otherwise disposed of, as his present Majesty shall think fitting. It would be a very easy Matter to deduce from the Premises, a very full and formal Series of Proofs, in a legal Way, in Support of this Title, but as what we have already said, will be sufficient to convince any Man of common Understanding, who is an equal and impartial Judge, there is no need of introducing a Parade of Learning on so plain a Point; which I shall therefore leave with this Observation, that when a better Right can be shewn to any Island not actually settled by any *European* Power that claims it, it will be Time enough to dispute that of the Crown of *Great Britain* to *Tabago*, which till then ought to be held as it really is, *indisputable*.

F I N I S.



